

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL LOS ANGELES IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 018315

EXDIS, TOSEC 31

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: YOUR MEETING WITH

AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM JANUARY 27: SITE OF THE NATO

SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING (S/S NO. 7501649)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM STABLER THRU SONNENFELDT

1. TO CARRY OUT YOUR DECISION TO SEEK LONDON AS THE VENUE FOR THE SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR BRUCE TO TELL LUNS THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER WASHINGTON AS THE SITE, AND TO URGE LUNS TO ASK THE BRITISH TO OFFER LONDON. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE CONVEYED TO THE UK EMBASSY HERE OUR HOPE THAT THE BRITISH WOULD OFFER LONDON.

2. IN LIGHT OF ANTICIPATED BRITISH RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO SERVE AS HOST, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM IN YOUR MEETING WITH HIM JANUARY 27.

3. YOUR TALKING POINTS.

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-- SEVERAL OF THE ALLIES SUGGESTED RECENTLY THAT

WASHINGTON BE THE SITE OF THE SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING. ANKARA WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE VENUE, BUT BECAUSE OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE GREECE BALKED AT ANKARA AND TURKEY WAS PLEASED TO PASS BECAUSE OF SPRING ELECTIONS THERE. OSLO, NEXT IN LINE, WAS RULED OUT BECAUSE THE NORWEGIANS ARE UNABLE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING THIS SPRING.

-- WE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, BUT REGRETFULLY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ANOTHER SITE WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

-- WE SERVED AS HOST FOR THE NAC 20TH ANNIVERSARY MINISTERIAL MEETING IN 1969 AND WILL BE HOST FOR THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING THIS MAY.

-- THUS, WE BELIEVE THE US ALREADY IS BEARING ITS SHARE OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING BURDEN THIS YEAR. MOREOVER, TOO MANY HIGH-LEVEL NATO GATHERINGS IN THE US COULD CONVEY THE ERRONEOUS PUBLIC IMPRESSION -- PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE -- THAT THE US IS SEEKING TO DOMINATE THE ALLIANCE.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO ALL ALLIES' UNDERTAKING TO SERVE AS HOST TO MINISTERIAL GATHERINGS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE ROTATION AMONG ALL CAPITALS CONVEYS TO PUBLIC OPINION AN ENHANCED SENSE OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY.

-- SINCE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THIS LATE DATE TO SCHEDULE A MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ONE OF THE SMALLER NATO CAPITALS, WE WOULD URGE THAT THE UK OFFER LONDON AS THE SITE.

-- THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LONDON SINCE 1965, AND AS A MAJOR CAPITAL IT HAS THE FACILITIES REQUIRED FOR SUCH A GATHERING.

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